

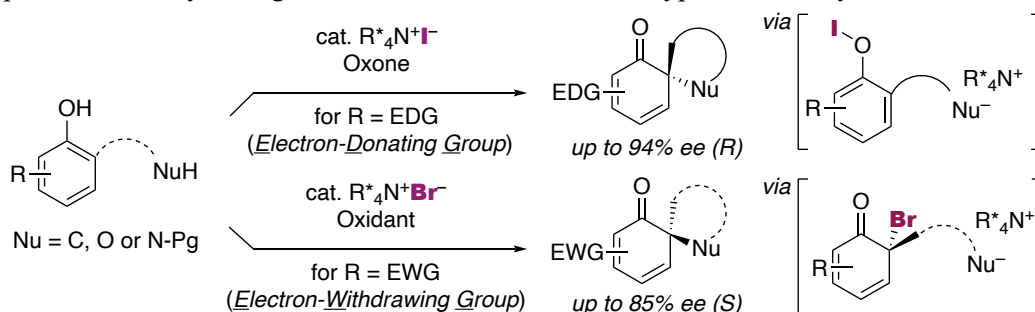
## Oxidative Dearomatization of Arenols Using High-performance Hypohalite Catalysis

(Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University) ○Takehiro Kato, Muhammet Uyanik, Kazuaki Ishihara

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Enantioselective oxidative dearomatization of arenols is an important tool for the synthesis of several biologically important compounds. To date, many elegant strategies have been developed using transition metal or hypervalent iodine catalysts or reagents.<sup>1</sup> In this regard, we have developed chiral quaternary ammonium hypoiodite-catalyzed enantioselective oxidative dearomatization of 1-naphthols.<sup>2</sup> In this catalytic system, hypoiodite active species were generated *in situ* from the corresponding quaternary ammonium iodides in the presence of hydrogen peroxide as an environmentally benign oxidant. However, the substrate scope was limited to 1-naphthols, and, in most cases, long times were required to complete the reactions, even for these highly reactive substrates.

Here, we developed a high-performance ammonium hypohalite catalysis for the enantioselective oxidative dearomatization reactions. Hypohalite catalytic active species could be generated *in situ* from the corresponding chiral quaternary ammonium halides with oxone as an environmentally benign oxidant. Only inorganic wastes were generated from the oxidant used. By using hypoiodite catalysis, the oxidation of a wide range of naphthols and electron-rich phenols could proceed under mild conditions to afford the corresponding spirolactones with high enantioselectivity.<sup>3,4</sup> On the other hand, by using hypobromite catalysis, intra- or intermolecular oxidative dearomatization of electron-deficient phenols, which were hardly reactive using the hypoiodite catalysis, readily proceeded to give the corresponding adducts. Control experiments revealed that the reaction mechanism of hypobromite catalysis might be different from that of the hypoiodite catalysis.



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